SEC. 31A. In addition to the authority granted to the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore by the preceding section to pay to each of the judges of the Supreme Bench the annual sum of Five Hundred Dollars, authority is hereby given to said Mayor and City Council to pay to each of said judges such further annual sum as an addition to their respective salaries as the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore shall from time to time deem right and proper, provided, that any such sum being once granted shall not be diminished during the continuance of said judges in office.*

It shall be the duty of the said Supreme Bench of Baltimore City, as soon as the judges thereof shall be elected and duly qualified, and from time to time, to provide for the holding of each of the aforesaid courts, by the assignment of one or more of their number to each of the said courts, who may sit either separately or together in the trial of cases; and the said Supreme Bench of Baltimore City may, from time to time, change the said assignment, as circumstances may require, and the public interest may demand; and the judge or judges, so assigned to the said several courts, shall, when holding the same, have all the powers and exercise all the jurisdiction which may belong to the court so being held; and it shall also be the duty of the said Supreme Bench of Baltimore City, in case of the sickness, absence or disability of any judge or judges assigned as aforesaid, to provide for the hearing of the cases, or transaction of the business assigned to said judge or judges, as aforesaid, before some one or more of the judges of said court.

The said Supreme Bench of Baltimore City shall have power, and it shall be its duty, to provide for the holding of as many general terms as the performance of its duties may require, such general terms to be held by not less than three judges; to make all needful rules and regulations for the conduct of business in each of the said courts, during the session thereof, and in vacation, or in chambers, before any of the said judges; and shall also have jurisdiction to hear and determine all motions for a new trial in cases tried in any of said courts, where such motions arise either, on questions of fact, or for misdirection upon any matters of law, and all motions in arrest of judgment, or upon any matters of law determined by the said judge, or judges, while holding said several courts; and the said Supreme Bench of Baltimore City shall make all needful rules and regulations for the hearing before it of all said matters; and the same right of appeal to the Court of Appeals shall be allowed from the determination of the

^{*} Sec. 31-A adopted at the November election 1926, as proposed by Ch. 116, Acts of 1924.